

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are provided whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Amended) A system capable of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising:

a controller, couplable to a state-based terminal, that translates at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using an Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

2. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said controller translates at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client.

3. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said controller comprises a protocol engine and a stateless client control engine.

4. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said controller forms an abstraction of said at least one stateless signaling message prior to translating.

5. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said system performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

6. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said media stream includes portions selected from the group consisting of:

voice,

video, and

data.

7. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein portions of said media stream traverse a path between said stateless client and said state-based terminal without said controller.

8. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least one state-based signaling message and said at least one stateless signaling message traverse a signaling path separate from a path for said media stream.

9. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein portions of said media stream traverse a path between said stateless client and said state-based terminal with said controller.

10. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least one state-based signaling message is based on a protocol selected from the group consisting of:

H.225,

H.235,

H.245, and

H.323.

11. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said stateless client is selected from the group consisting of a device having:
an individual telephone,

at least one digital trunk interface,

at least one analog trunk interface,

at least one digital station interface,

at least one analog station interface, and

a shared system resource.

12. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least one stateless signaling message includes an indication selected from the group consisting of:

- a telephony "off-hook" event,
- a telephony "on-hook" event,
- a telephony "button depressed" event,
- a telephony "digit dialed" event, and
- a "client registration" event.

Please cancel Claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

14. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said controller operates only with respect to call management and management of said media stream.

15. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said system is embodied as a sequence of instructions executable in a general purpose computer system.

16. (Amended) A method of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising the steps of:

translating at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using an Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

17. The method as recited in Claim 16 further comprising the step of translating at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client

18. The method as recited in Claim 16 further comprising the step of forming an abstraction of said at least one stateless signaling message prior to the step of translating.

19. The method as recited in Claim 16 wherein the method performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

20. The method as recited in Claim 16 wherein said media stream includes portions selected from the group consisting of:

voice,
video, and
data.

21. (Amended) A system capable of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising:

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a controller, couplable to a state-based terminal, that translates at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using an Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

22. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said controller translates at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal.

23. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said controller comprises .a protocol engine and a stateless client control engine.

24. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said controller forms an abstraction of said at least one state-based signaling message prior to translating.

25. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said system . performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

26. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said media stream includes portions selected from the group consisting of:

voice,

video, and

data.

27. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein portions of said media stream traverse a path between said stateless client and said state-based terminal without said controller.

28. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one state-based signaling message and said at least one stateless signaling message traverse a signaling path separate from a path for said media stream.

29. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein portions of said media stream traverse a path between said stateless client and said state-based terminal with said controller.

30. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one state-based signaling message is based on a protocol selected from the group consisting of:

H.225,

H.235,

H.245, and

H.323.

31. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said stateless client is selected from the group consisting of a device having:

an individual telephone,

at least one digital trunk interface,

at least one analog trunk interface,

at least one digital station interface,

at least one analog station interface, and

a shared system resource.

32. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one stateless signaling message includes an indication selected from the group consisting of:

a telephony "off-hook" event,

a telephony "on-hook" event,

a telephony "button depressed" event,

a telephony "digit dialed" event, and

a "client registration" event.

Please cancel Claim 33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

34. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said controller operates only with respect to call management and management of said media stream.

35. The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said system is embodied as a sequence of instructions executable in a general purpose computer system.

36. (Amended) A method of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising the steps of:

translating at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using an Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

37. The method as recited in Claim 36 further comprising the step of translating at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal.

38. The method as recited in Claim 36 further comprising the step of forming an abstraction of said at least one state-based signaling message prior to the step of translating.

39. The method as recited in Claim 36 wherein the method performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

40. The method as recited in Claim 36 wherein said media stream includes portions selected from the group consisting of:

voice,
video, and
data.

41. (Amended) A system capable of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising:

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a controller, couplable to a state-based terminal, that translates at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using a packet network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

42. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said controller translates at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client.

43. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said controller comprises a protocol engine and a stateless client control engine.

44. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said controller comprises a call manager messaging interface and a stateless client messaging interface.

45. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said controller forms an abstraction of said at least one stateless signaling message prior to translating.

46. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said system performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

47. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said network employs a transport protocol selected from the group consisting of:

an Internet Protocol (IP),
an Internetwork Packet Exchange / Sequenced Packet Exchange (IPX/SPX), and
a Systems Network Architecture (SNA).

48. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein portions of said media stream traverse a path between said stateless client and said state-based terminal without said controller.

49. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said at least one state-based signaling message and said at least one stateless signaling message traverse a signaling path separate from a path for said media stream.

50. The system as recited in Claim 41 wherein said system is embodied as a sequence of instructions executable in a general purpose computer system.

51. (Amended) A method of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising the steps of:

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translates at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using a packet network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

52. The method as recited in Claim 51 further comprising the step of translating at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client.

53. The method as recited in Claim 51 further comprising the step of forming an abstraction of said at least one stateless signaling message prior to the step of translating.

54. The method as recited in Claim 51 wherein the method performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

55. The method as recited in Claim 51 wherein said network employs a transport protocol selected from the group consisting of:

an Internet Protocol (IP),
an Internetwork Packet Exchange/Sequenced Packet Exchange IPX/SPX), and
a Systems Network Architecture (SNA).

56. (Amended) A system capable of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising:

a controller, couplable to a state-based terminal, that translates at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using a packet network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

57. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said controller translates at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal.

58. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said controller comprises a protocol engine and a stateless client control engine.

59. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said controller comprises a call manager messaging interface and a stateless client messaging interface.

60. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said controller forms an abstraction of said at least one state-based signaling message prior to translating.

61. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said system performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

62. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said network employs a transport protocol selected from the group consisting of:

an Internet Protocol (IP),

an Internetwork Packet Exchange/Sequenced Packet Exchange (IPX/SPX), and

a Systems Network Architecture (SNA).

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63. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein portions of said media stream traverse a path between said stateless client and said state-based terminal without said controller

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64. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said at least one state-based signaling message and said at least one stateless signaling message traverse a signaling path separate from a path for said media stream.

65. The system as recited in Claim [51] 56 wherein said system is embodied as a sequence of instructions executable in a general purpose computer system.

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66. (Amended) A method of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, comprising the steps of: translating at least one state-based signaling message received from said state-based terminal to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said stateless client thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said stateless client and said state-based terminal [over] using a packet network, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

67. The method as recited in Claim 66 further comprising the step of translating at least one stateless signaling message received from said stateless client to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said state-based terminal.

68. The method as recited in Claim 66 further comprising the step of forming an abstraction of said at least one state-based signaling message prior to the step of translating.

69. The method as recited in Claim 66 wherein the method performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

70. The method as recited in Claim 66 wherein said network employs a transport protocol selected from the group consisting of:

- an Internet Protocol (IP),
- an Internetwork Packet Exchange/Sequenced Packet Exchange (IPX/SPX), and
- a Systems Network Architecture (SNA).

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71. (Amended) An Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, comprising: at least one state-based terminal capable of processing state-based signaling messages; at least one stateless client capable of processing only stateless signaling messages; and a server, couplable between said at least one state-based terminal and said at least one stateless client, comprising: a controller capable of performing state-based signaling on behalf of said at least one stateless client, including: a stateless client control engine that forms an abstraction of said at least one stateless signaling message received from said at least one stateless client; and a protocol engine that translates said abstraction to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said at least one state-based terminal thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said at least one stateless client and said at least one state-based terminal, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

72. The network as recited in Claim 71 wherein said protocol engine forms an abstraction of at least one state-based signaling message received from said at least one state-based terminal, said stateless client control engine translating said abstraction to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said at least one stateless client. .

73. The network as recited in Claim 71 wherein said controller further comprises a call manager messaging interface and a stateless client messaging interface.

74. The network as recited in Claim 71 further comprising a gateway coupled between an intranet portion and an internet portion of said network.

75. The network as recited in Claim 71 wherein said controller is embodied as a sequence of instructions executable in a general purpose computer system.

76. (Amended) An Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, comprising: at least one state-based terminal capable of processing state-based signaling messages; at least one stateless client capable of processing only stateless signaling messages; and a server, couplable between said at least one state-based terminal and said at least one stateless client, comprising: a controller capable of performing state-based signaling on behalf of said at least one stateless client, including: a protocol engine that forms an abstraction of said at least one state-based signaling message received from said at least one state-based terminal; and a stateless client control engine that translates said abstraction to at least one stateless signaling message for presentation to said at least one stateless client thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between said at least one stateless client and said at least one state-based terminal, wherein the media stream communications session is comprised of packets exchanged between said stateless client and said state-based terminal.

77. The network as recited in Claim 76 wherein said stateless client control engine forms an abstraction of at least one stateless signaling message received from said at least one stateless client, said protocol engine translating said abstraction to at least one state-based signaling message for presentation to said at least one state-based terminal. .

78. The network as recited in Claim 76 wherein said controller further comprises a call manager messaging interface and a stateless client messaging interface.

79. The network as recited in Claim 76 further comprising a gateway coupled between an intranet portion and an internet portion of said network.

80. The network as recited in Claim 76 wherein said controller is embodied as a sequence of instructions executable in a general purpose computer system.

81. (New) A method of performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, the method comprising the following steps:

receiving, from a stateless client, a first packet comprising a stateless signaling message;

translating the first packet into a second packet comprising a state-based signaling message; and

communicating the second packet to a state-based terminal, thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between the stateless client and the state-based terminal using a packet network.

82. (New) The method as recited in Claim 81 wherein translating the first packet comprises:

forming an abstraction of the first packet; and

translating the abstraction of the first packet into the second packet.

83. (New) The method as recited in Claim 81 wherein the second packet and the first packet traverse a packet based signaling path separate from a path for the media stream communications session.

84. (New) The method as recited in Claim 81 wherein the method performs state-based signaling on behalf of a plurality of stateless clients.

85. (New) The method as recited in Claim 81 wherein communicating the second packet employs a transport protocol selected from the group consisting of:

an Internet Protocol (IP),

an Internetwork Packet Exchange/Sequenced Packet Exchange (IPX/SPX), and

a Systems Network Architecture (SNA).

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86. (New) The method as recited in Claim 81 wherein receiving a first packet employs a transport protocol selected from the group consisting of:

- an Internet Protocol (IP),**
- an Internetwork Packet Exchange/Sequenced Packet Exchange (IPX/SPX), and**
- a Systems Network Architecture (SNA).**

87. (New) Software for performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client, the software being embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed by a computer operable to:

receive, from a stateless client, a first packet comprising a stateless signaling message;

translate the first packet into a second packet comprising a state-based signaling message; and

communicate the second packet to a state-based terminal, thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between the stateless client and the state-based terminal using a packet network.

88. (New) The software as recited in Claim 87 wherein translate the first packet comprises:

forming an abstraction of the first packet; and

translating the abstraction of the first packet into the second packet.

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89. (New) An apparatus for performing state-based signaling on behalf of a stateless client comprising:

means for receiving, from a stateless client, a first packet comprising a stateless signaling message;

means for translating the first packet into a second packet comprising a state-based signaling message; and

means for communicating the second packet to a state-based terminal, thereby facilitating a media stream communications session between the stateless client and the state-based terminal using a packet network.

90. (New) The apparatus as recited in Claim 89 wherein translating the first packet comprises:

forming an abstraction of the first packet; and

translating the abstraction of the first packet into the second packet.